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MAVA-8833

Chief, Foreign Division M  
Attn: [ ]  
Chief of Station, Vienna

18 July 1951

Operational  
Ferenc PARKAS: Interrogation of Tamas HERCZEG

1. Forwarded in one copy only is SLZ/4391 dated 2 July 1951, containing the results of interrogation of Tamas HERCZEG by CIC in Salzburg, as promised in para. 1 of MAVA-8752 (para. 2, VIEN-5674).

2. This interrogation contributes little to the Ferenc PARKAS case, but even that little is not wholly negligible. It is at least confirmed that the two men tell identical stories concerning their period of acquaintance and their escape from Hungary. (HERCZEG, a casual contact of PARKAS as it appears, has made no attempt at all to interest HIS or other agencies in him, so it is regarded as unlikely that he too is a penetration agent). That PARKAS should have told HERCZEG in general the same story as that which he has used throughout his interrogation in Vienna is not in itself of any probative force: it merely shows that PARKAS has been consistent in his account of himself, even though the account may be entirely fabricated.

3. We agreed with the conclusion reached in para. 5 of the attachment, and consequently did not follow through with another interrogation of HERCZEG by [ ]

4. We are in the meantime going ahead with plans for a carriage test for PARKAS himself (requested in VIEN-5751). Until this is accomplished, we shall abide strictly by Headquarters' instruction in WASH-48840, and shall not make any operational use of him at all for the time being.

5. [ ] queried PARKAS concerning his connection with any of the persons mentioned in the GROESZ trial in Hungary but without any appreciable result. PARKAS states volubly and repeatedly that his group has made its contacts within pro-Church circles but without directly involving Church personalities.

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6. We invite the attention of Headquarters to still another parallel account of the "White Guard" which appeared in USFA, G-2 Special Biweekly Report 146 dated 22 June 1951. This concerned the foundation of a White Guard unit in Csepreg on 10 January 1950 by one Antal MAJOROSSY, a radio repairman, who allegedly operated a radio set from the home of his employer, Emilia SZOLCSANYI, to communicate with ex-officers of the Hungarian Gendarmerie now in Graz. An armed uprising was planned for 15 March 1951, but just before that date the group was rounded up by the AVH, possibly at the instigation of MAJOROSSY himself. (Compare the story mentioned in para. 1 of VIEN-5545).

Distributions:

2 Hqs. with attachment  
1 PARKAS 2000  
1 Chrono

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SLZ/4391

2 July 1951

Chief of Station, Vienna

Attention: C ]

Chief, Salzburg Base

HERCZEG Interrogation

1. As explained verbally to C ] last week, HERCZEG was reported to have been granted a Canadian visa and to be on the IRO shipment for 21 June. Although this report proved false, CIC desired to interrogate him on the unusual rapidity with which he obtained his IRO eligibility and on his association with a certain Dr. Pal MANTON, who had allegedly "expedited" HERCZEG's processing along with that of five or six other recent arrivals. No. 116 conducted the CIC interrogation and with the cooperation of S/A William RAYMOND, he was given a list of additional questions covering HERCZEG's relations with PARKAS.
2. HERCZEG was unable to supply much definite information on PARKAS since the two met only in November 1950 at the apartment of a mutual friend, Sandor WATHE, Budapest XIII, Indly u. 24/2. For some time previously, HERCZEG had been searching for some means to leave Hungary and WATHE recommended PARKAS to him as a reliable man who had some knowledge of the border area. PARKAS talked very little about himself while they made their escape plans and most of the meager information below was gathered by HERCZEG after their arrival in Austria.
3. PARKAS attended a military academy during the war and in 1944 he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the Infantry. After serving briefly in an unidentified unit, he was interned as a PW by the French. He was released soon afterward and returned to Hungary where he entered the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Debrecen in 1945. He remained in Debrecen until 1948 at which time he was forced to leave because of his anti-Marxist views. HERCZEG knows nothing of PARKAS' activities after 1948 except that he was unemployed when they met in November 1950.
4. PARKAS was extremely dissatisfied with the post-war Hungarian political parties and while studying in Debrecen, he became involved in the revival of the old Christian Socialist Party in collaboration with Professor (fnu) KARATSONYI (doubtless identical with Dr. Sandor KARACSONYI mentioned in the "IS" interrogation of PARKAS) and some monks, whose names are unknown. HERCZEG also knew that PARKAS was a member of the White Guard resistance organization, but he could supply no details on either the party or the resistance group. He believes that the resistance group has 6 - 7000 members with weapons buried in

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the Bakony area, and PARKAS told him that he had been sent to the West to make contact with Hungarian exile groups. HERCZEG has no knowledge of PARKAS' present whereabouts but believes it likely that he was sent back to Hungary on a mission for CIC.

5. We regret that HERCZEG proved to be such a poor source, but we do not feel that any more information will be forthcoming. It seems that the friendship between him and PARKAS was more of a "marriage de convenance" than anything else and that he never knew much about him. If you still desire a Grit 1 interrogation, we can still arrange it, but doubt whether it would serve any useful purpose.

C J

3 - Vien  
2 - Salt

C J